

# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Fourpence

25th February, 1961

## DICKIE HENDERSON LIKES HIS NEW WORKING HOURS

By Peter London

As one of Britain's leading comedians, Dickie Henderson is used to being stared at. He doesn't mind it a bit. "It's when people stop staring that I shall mind," he says. But the other day, when he and his nine-year-old son Matthew were strolling in the park near their London home, someone not only stared at him, but whispered: "That isn't his son!"

THE reason for that remark is not hard to understand. In the Henderson family series on TV the part of Dickie's son is played by 12-year-old John Parsons, and played so convincingly that millions of people believe that John really is the son of Dickie Henderson.

What does Matthew himself think about all this? I asked Dickie at the Wembley Studios. "Oh, he thinks John Parsons is wonderful. If we can manage it, the two are going to meet; but Matthew is too young to go to TV studios and working in the series is a full week's job for all of us in the show," Dickie said.

Matthew has a sister Linda, aged six, who is sometimes

working in an office," says Dickie. But it's pretty strenuous work. The company rehearses from ten to six every day, and then there is the day of transmission. At first he thought he could combine the TV series with all the other work that pours in on him, but a week or two at the beginning of the run convinced him that it was too much, even for a tough and experienced trouper like himself.

### In films at ten

Dickie Henderson made his entry into show business when he was ten, in the Hollywood film version of Noel Coward's notable play *Cavalcade*. (His father, Dick Henderson, a famous comedian of the variety stage, was working in Hollywood at the time and had his family out there with him.)

Dickie went to various schools in America and England, but admits ruefully that he wasn't a good scholar and probably wasted his time. When he was 15 he decided that show business was the thing he had grown up in and that he might as well follow the family into it.

### Starting at the bottom

"But Dad told me that I must start at the bottom and learn the job. So I got a job with Jack Hylton and his Band as bandboy, assistant stage manager, handyman. I learned everything with Jack—singing, dancing, comedy, music. All for £1 a week." (Now Dickie earns up to £50,000 a year and Jack Hylton presents his ex-bandboy as the star of Hylton shows.)

As his TV series reveal, Dickie is versatile to a degree; but a few years ago it seemed that this very versatility might prevent him from reaching the top. He did so many things well in an era of specialisation.

The turning point that took him through the "success barrier" was a Royal Command Variety Performance three years ago. He

Continued on page 2



Dickie Henderson

allowed to stay up and see the Monday evening show. Her first comment was: "Why does that boy keep calling my Daddy his Daddy?"

But if the TV series brings problems to the real-life Henderson family it also brings advantages. For the first time in his long professional life Dickie Henderson is now able to spend evenings at home with his family instead of going off to the theatre to work.

"This daytime work in the TV studios is fine. It's almost like

## SISTERS AFLOAT



Brenda and Helen Winsor, of Epsom, Surrey, are both members of Littleton Sailing Club and compete against each other in various events. Helen (right), who is 14, recently won a trophy as best junior helmswoman of 1960.

## ROYAL DESK FOR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. John Kennedy now works at a desk presented by Queen Victoria to a former President. The desk, made from the stout timbers of an old British sailing ship, was found by Mrs. Kennedy in the basement of the White House.

The ship was H.M.S. *Resolute* which became ice-bound in the Arctic, in 1854, while searching for survivors of Sir John Franklin's ill-fated expedition. Pulled

off the ice in the following year by an American whaler, she was refitted at the expense of the American Government and presented to Queen Victoria.

When the old ship was eventually broken up a fine desk was carved from her timbers and sent by Queen Victoria to the then American President "as a memorial of the courtesy and loving kindness which dictated the offer of the *Resolute*."

## Looking after our historic locomotives

Britain has every reason to be proud of her railways, and British Railways are taking steps to ensure that some of her famous steam locomotives will not go to the scrap heap when their work is done. Twenty-seven engines have been scheduled to join the 44 historic locomotives which have already been preserved.

### On the old rails

Among them is *Locomotion*, the first engine of the world's first passenger railway—between Stockton and Darlington. *Locomotion* now stands at Darlington Station on two of the old rails on which it once ran.

Among the engines recently put on the list for preservation are the *Mallard*, which has held the world's speed record of 126 m.p.h. since it was built in 1938, and the freight engine *Evening Star*, the last steam locomotive built for British Railways.

## JENNINGS and his friend DARBISHIRE

HERE THEY  
ARE AGAIN

The irrepressible Jennings  
of Radio and Television  
will be back in the CN  
next week when we  
begin a new serial story



JUST LIKE JENNINGS

by Anthony Buckeridge



# Problems of a growing Family of Nations

By the CN Diplomatic Correspondent

As colonies become independent, should they all automatically have a right to become full members of the British Commonwealth? Alternatively, if the number is to be limited, what should be the conditions for membership? And should a country with perhaps half-a-million people have as much say in Commonwealth affairs as a country with many millions?

A special study-group of experts have been considering these questions since last year's Commonwealth Conference, and their report will come before the Premiers at their next meeting which opens in London on 8th March.

Many big problems will come under discussion at this Conference, but none exceeds in domestic importance this question of a growing and changing "family."

By the middle of 1961 there will be 13 fully independent members of the Commonwealth, including Britain. This number could be doubled over the next ten years or so, assuming that all the remaining colonies (or groups of colonies) are admitted to full membership on becoming independent.

At present the most populous member of the Commonwealth "family" is India, with nearly 400 million people. On the other hand Cyprus, which last year became a republic under the presidency of Archbishop Makarios, has a population of not much more than half a million.

Now if, as expected, Cyprus asks for, and is granted, full membership at the coming Premiers' Conference she will become an equal partner with the others. One of the questions under review by the study-group is whether such countries as Cyprus should have an equal say with other members who are much bigger.

## Equal say for all?

But on the question of population can other small colonial units such as Mauritius (620,000), the Gambia (280,000), and Zanzibar (304,000) hope to gain admittance? And what about the future of that group of lonely dependencies in the South Atlantic—St. Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha, which have no more than 5,000 people between them?

If area is to be the test of membership, what about the smallest colonial territory of all—Gibraltar, which covers only two-and-a-quarter square miles yet has a population of more than 25,000 civilians, not counting troops based on "the Rock"?

These are among the knotty points that the Prime Ministers will have to discuss.

## Administrative Problems

Another problem is one of administration. There are areas difficult to administer, like the scattered islands of the West Indies, but which nevertheless can be conveniently grouped into a federation. But there are remote places—like the Falkland Islands off South America, and the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean—which are not strong enough to stand alone. They must either continue to be controlled directly by Britain, or must team up with some other country.

When the Commonwealth Premiers met last May a guidance pamphlet on this subject was issued by a group of Conservatives. Their ideas—though unofficial—are interesting.

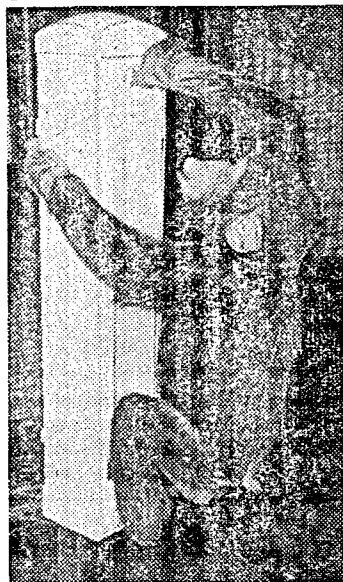
One is that there should be a new status for dependent territories. (These are units which do not look like becoming fully independent—that is, responsible for their own external policies, defence, and foreign affairs, as well as internal government.) If they

enjoy full internal self-government they would be classified as Free States, or as Realms when they do not.

The Conservative group suggested that representatives of Free States should attend Commonwealth conferences as observers, but not take part in the proceedings. But Free States and Realms alike should, they argued, be linked with the fully independent Commonwealth members in regional organisations.

But how small isolated units like Malta, Gibraltar, and Bermuda should be provided for in this changing world must remain a subject of inquiry for some time. That problem, a small but important part of the bigger question of Commonwealth membership, is unlikely to be solved finally at the forthcoming conference.

## Sam finds the slot



One of the London Zoo chimps discovers how to get a bar of chocolate from a slot machine

## Dickie Henderson

Continued from page 1

had to follow Gracie Fields on the bill. Dickie walked on "shaking all over with nerves," he told me, while the wave of applause for Gracie was still echoing round the theatre.

He stood there waiting and suddenly said, with his charming smile, "Ah, Gracie Fields . . . you know, she has only one gimmick—talent."

"The line just popped into my head; it wasn't in my script," Dickie told me afterwards. But the effect was fantastic. The vast audience exploded into applause and laughter. Dickie Henderson the new young comic, had "arrived."

From then on it has been a continuous success story, with Dickie starring at West End theatres, in America, on TV, and records. It took him 20 years to get to the top, and one thing that always pleases him is that his father lived to see him achieve it.

## NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

A hospital in Moscow will have all its washing done free of charge when a team of British laundry workers arrive there in May for the British Trades Fair.

It is reckoned that to change the rule of the road from left to right in Sweden would cost £22,000,000—largely for alterations to buses. (Sweden, Britain, and Cyprus are the only European countries where traffic keeps to the left.)

A thanksgiving service to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the translation of the Authorised Version of the Bible will be held in Westminster Abbey on 15th March.

## MORE GIRL GUIDES

There were over 25,500 more Girl Guides in Britain last year than in 1959—the biggest increase for eleven years. Membership reached nearly 594,500.

A cross made of nails from the bombed Coventry Cathedral has been set up in a German Evangelical Church at Hamburg.

When a naval helicopter crashed in the North Channel (between Scotland and Ireland) its crew of three were rescued by a submarine which surfaced when the disaster was seen through its periscope.

Northern Nigeria is to have a Flying Doctor service.

Cut off by rough seas, five men in Les Hanois Lighthouse, off Guernsey, were kept supplied with water and fuel by two helicopters from Portland.

## ICY EQUATOR

A temperature-recording balloon released by a Russian research ship crossing the Equator rose eleven miles into the air, and recorded 158 degrees of frost!

Britain's trade with China last year reached the record figure of £57,000,000.

A magazine called *Anglia* is to be produced by the Central Office of Information for sale in Russia. Printed in the Russian language, it will contain features describing British life and customs.

When a horse broke loose from its cart and bolted into a rough sea at West Hartlepool, Co. Durham, the driver swam half-a-mile in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue it.

## THEY SAY . . .

CRICKET is not the least of the old Mother Country's invisible exports; it is at once a game and a way of life.

Viscount Cobham, Governor-General of New Zealand

Everyone knows that youth hostelling is wonderful fun—and that it's cheap, too. But not everyone knows how to join the Y.H.A. and set about planning an exciting outdoor holiday. So now we've made it easy for you—a large straight-forward coupon. Just fill it in, post it to us, and we'll send you an attractive free booklet and an enrolment form—everything you and your parents want to know about the Y.H.A. Spring's on its way—take your first step on the Adventure Trail now—post this coupon today!



# cut it out!

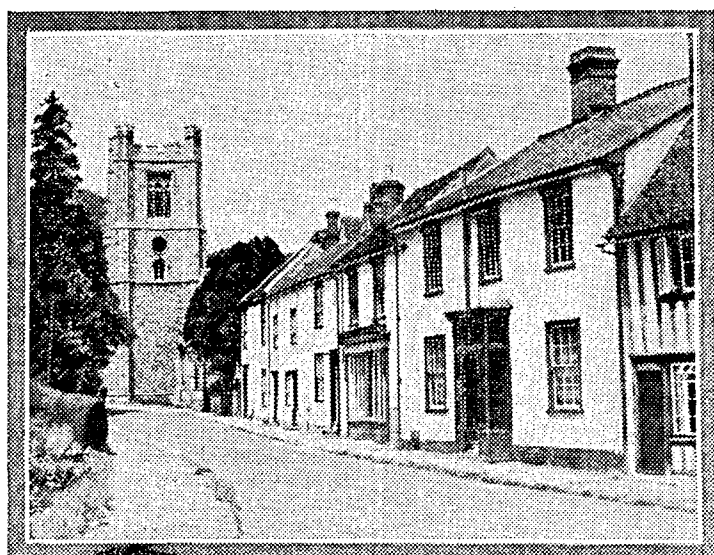
TO YOUTH HOSTELS ASSOCIATION (CN/614),  
TREVELYAN HOUSE, ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

Please send me free booklet "Going Places?" and an enrolment form.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

# cut it out!



OUR HOMELAND

A corner of the quaint Essex town of Great Dunmow



The Children's Newspaper, 25th, February 1961

## KEEPERS OF THE QUEEN'S WOOD



## Sports prizes for GN readers

Sports prizes offered in CN Competition No. 5 have been won by: Colin Baker, Skegness; Gillian Baldwin Gillingham; Joan Davies, Ross-on-Wye; Dilys Gray-Jones, Aberystwyth; Joan Turner, Werrington, Staffordshire.

Needlework Sets for the girls, and Model Aeroplane Kits for boys, are awarded to these runners-up: Donald Alderson, High Worsall; Rosalind Atkinson, Corbridge; Richard Evans, Carlisle; Barbara Muston, Waltham Abbey; Celia Parker, Lupset; Howard Parkhouse, Port Talbot; Geoffrey Pearce, Bilton; Allan Piggott, Braughing; Alison Ross, Berwick-on-Tweed; Helen Uprichard, Lurgan.

## National dances at Nottingham

On Thursday and Friday this week over 100 dancers, singers, and musicians, all in bright costumes, will take part in the international folk dance and music festival at the Rainbow Rooms, Nottingham.

Traditional dances, with their individual steps, rhythms and patterns, will be performed by teams from Britain, America, and European countries. In addition, there will be solo dancing, choir singing, and hand-bell ringing.

## EGGS FOR EXPORT



About 22,000 eggs of salmon and sea-trout from Lancashire rivers have been sent by the Government to the Falkland Islands as a breeding experiment. The eggs were packed in moss and ice.

Two keepers are thinning out birch trees for broom-making. A scene in Queen's Wood, near Leominster, Herefordshire. This woodland was bought by public subscription to commemorate the Jubilee of King George V in 1935.

## School stages a Safety Week

Derby Police have given a pat on the back to Creswell Secondary Modern School, the first in the county to stage its own Road Safety Week.

On show there were road signs, battered crash helmets, traffic lights, posters, photographs, and a model village prepared by the police. There were even film shows on road safety and the highlight of the week was a visit from the local M.P.

Derby Police sent a message of thanks to the school for giving up so much time "to enable the cause of road safety to be expounded with such success."

## Girl's picture for the Queen

A Lowestoft schoolgirl, Rosalind Smith, painted a portrait of the Queen in oils, copying it from a picture postcard, and then sent it off to Buckingham Palace. A few days later she received a letter from one of Her Majesty's Ladies in Waiting, expressing the Queen's "most sincere thanks."

Rosalind, who is 13, started painting about three years ago.

## Young Argentine sees England

Some 60 Argentine schoolchildren have been enjoying a trip to Britain. They went to the Tower of London at the invitation of the Governor, were shown over the Houses of Parliament by an M.P. They also saw an ice show, Madame Tussaud's, *My Fair Lady*, and visited Windsor, Eton, Hampton Court, and Stratford-on-Avon.

## BRITAIN'S GUIDE

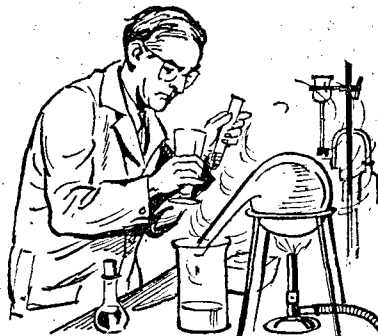
Seventeen-year-old Jane Lyons, of Bramcote, Nottinghamshire, is to represent Britain at the American Girl Guides jubilee celebrations during the Summer.

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

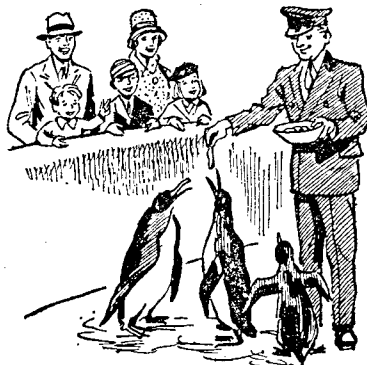
# MR THERM'S ABC

Issued by the Gas Council.

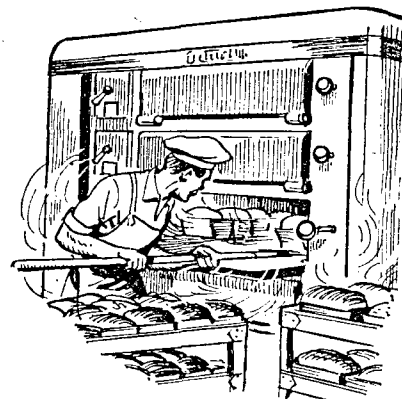
How many good things of life come from Mr. Therm! He works hard all the time to make life easy. Wonderful Mr. Therm!



**Y** is for **YEAST**, which makes dough rise at the bakers. Yeast is the name given to a whole family of fungi. They are bacteria, but helpful and useful ones, not like the bad bacteria that give everyone colds! When the baker wants to make bread he adds yeast to his dough. The yeast, which is living, feeds off the flour, and we get fermentation during which bubbles of carbon dioxide form, which swell the dough. Mr. Therm plays a large part in the baking industry. When the baker heats his oven by gas he knows it's at the right temperature all the time. In some bakeries to-day there are gas ovens which can turn out 12,000 bread rolls every hour, all superbly baked, thanks to Mr. Therm!



**X** is for **XYLOLES**! No, that's not a musical instrument, it's one of Mr. Therm's by-products that helps to make paints, varnishes, lacquers, dopes, printing ink, perfumes and enamels! What a versatile fellow Mr. Therm is. In this super series it must have been very hard to believe at times just how many pies Mr. Therm has his finger in! But he's everywhere. He's had a hand in making the lino you walk on, the car Daddy drives, the colour of your party dress, and the taste of the sweets you shouldn't eat so many of! And it all comes from the by-products of coal at the gasworks.



**Z** is for **ZOOS**, and all the super animals and birds inside them. Yes, Mr. Therm is there as well. He helps to keep the animal houses and aquaria at the correct temperature so that a creature from a tropic clime can feel perfectly at home. He makes sure the staff and keepers are warm, too. And he's busy in the restaurants and cookhouses. Feeding a zoo is a difficult job! There are so many different sorts of meals that have to be prepared. But Mr. Therm's speedy, efficient gas cookers get the job done in no time. We mustn't forget Mr. Therm's work for veterinary surgeons as well. Thanks to the wonder drugs that come from the by-products of coal, the lives of many of our pets can be saved. Truly Mr. Therm is a friend to animals as well as to humans!

## DON'T FORGET OUR SUPER COMPETITION

### HERE'S WHAT TO DO

Add one letter in place of each dot to complete the words in the panels—they are all objects in the picture.

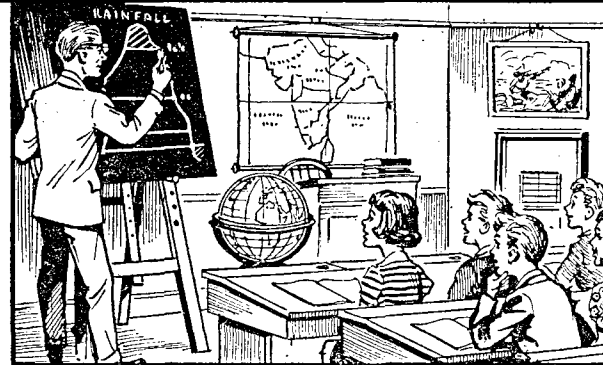
List the six answers neatly on a postcard, add your full name, age and address, then post it to:

Mr. Therm's A.B.C. No. 9,  
Children's Newspaper,  
3 Pilgrim Street,  
London, E.C.4 (Comp.).

Mr. Therm will award £2 2s. Book Tokens for the three nearest correct entries (with writing according to age taken into consideration) received by Friday, 3rd March.

### MORE A.B.C. WINNERS!

The winners of our A.B.C. Competition No. 4 are Wendy Gunn of Merrow, Margaret Vickers of Beckenham, and Michael Knowling of Barrhead.



D · S ·

M · P

· H · LK

· LO · E

BL · C · BO · R ·

G · SF · · E

## NEXT WEEK: A GREAT NEW MR. THERM SERIES AND A GRAND NEW COMPETITION



# CHILDREN'S HOUR- AND-A-HALF

## Second programme for young people

For the first time in nearly 40 years, young people are to have their own alternative programmes in sound radio.

From 10th April a new Monday-to-Friday feature in the Light Programme from 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. will cater for children (and for their fathers and mothers) in addition to the normal Home Service children's programmes from 5 to 5.55 p.m.



David Davis

One notable difference is that the title *Children's Hour* is being dropped. I talked to David Davis, who has been head of *Children's Hour* since 1953 and associated with the programme since 1935.

"Some people seem to have run away with the idea that *Children's Hour* has come to an end," he said. "It just isn't so! We are filling the same time in the Home Service with the same favourite features like *Jennings*, *Toytown*, the adventure serials, quizzes, and talks. And don't forget it includes *Junior Time* from Mondays to Fridays at 5 to 5.15, specially for the five to eight-year-olds.

"I don't look on this as the end of an old programme but the beginning of a new. In fact, I'm full of hope. What we've done down the years is to drop all that 'fairies-down-the-garden' attitude that *Children's Hour* began with back in the 1920s."

The new hour-long Light Programme feature is timed to coincide with children's arrival home from school. Called *Playtime*, it should also appeal to any grown-ups who may be listening, too. It will consist mainly of gramophone records, and David told me it will probably be introduced by a different radio personality each day. "Someone geared to the needs of young people," he said.

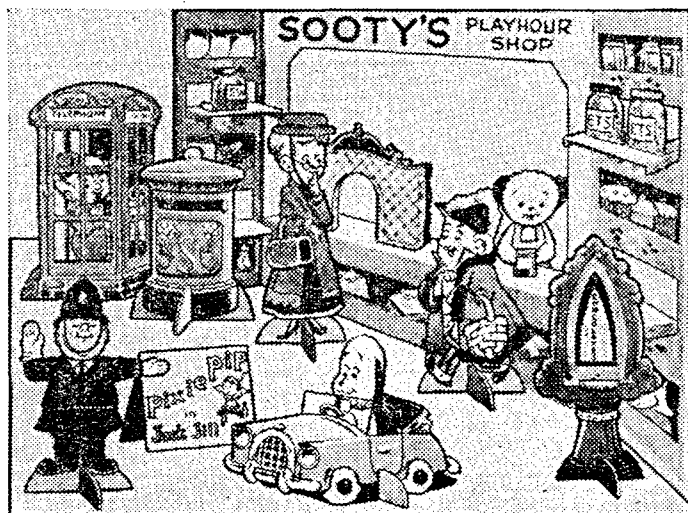
Children's programmes will carry on just the same at 5 o'clock in the Home Service on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

# SOOTY'S SHOP

## FREE in 4 parts in PLAYHOUR

The first part is FREE in Playhour today—a brightly coloured card that makes up into the Shop—Sooty in his serving apron—jars of sweets.

Every little girl and boy will love this jolly model shop. Easy to make up. They'll have hours of fun helping Sooty to serve the customers.



ASK FOR

# Playhour

The coloured paper for little girls and boys—5d.

# Back to Trafalgar

## WITH A SOLDIER IN COMMAND OF THE NAVY

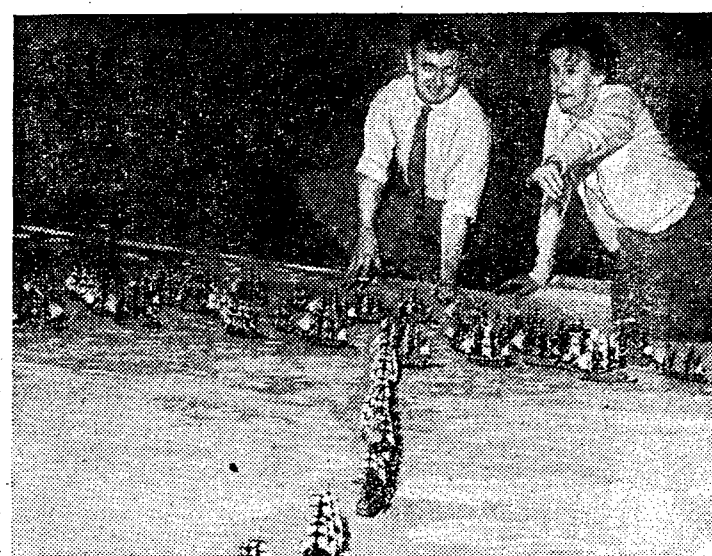
NELSON is the hero in the next edition of *Great Captains* by Lt-General Sir Brian Horrocks on BBC Television next Tuesday (28th February). The victor of the Nile, Copenhagen, and Trafalgar has given the BBC scenic department their biggest opportunity to stage a scale model of



one of the greatest and most decisive battles of history.

Trafalgar has been "re-fought" on a large table in the restaurant block of the Television Centre. Most indoor programme filming is done at Ealing Studios, but Nelson's crowning engagement took so long to film—to be precise, one week—that Ealing could not spare the space for such a lengthy period.

In all, 75 ship models were constructed from kits by scenic experts Jack Kine and Bernard Wilkie. Viewers will see 28 of the



Producer Therese Denny and an expert from the Special Effects department arrange the model ships before the battle

ships on the move during the action.

The animation was achieved by advancing each model about 1/16th of an inch for each separate film exposure. As there are 25 exposures for every second of screen time, it can be understood

why the "battle" took longer than Nelson needed for it!

One schoolboy wrote to General Horrocks: "My parents always enjoy your programmes and break my bedtime rule to allow me to see them. We shall all be watching next week."

## SCHOOLBOYS IN THE JUDO CLASS

SCHOOLBOY Judo enthusiasts, all members of the London Judo Society, will demonstrate the art of self-defence in an outside broadcast from the Society's Kennington headquarters on BBC Junior TV next Friday. Among the hints they will put over will be how to fall without getting hurt.

Judo is coming much to the fore these days and will, for the first time, be included in the Olympic Games at Tokyo in 1964. Friday's programme will include a free-style demonstration between two experts.

One is Senta Yamada, one of the most experienced wrestlers in Britain; the other is George Chew, a member of the Society and himself a Black Belt.

David Coleman will introduce the programme with Alex MacIntosh, who is also a Judo Society member and a Blue Belt.

## Advice from the author

It is rare for a real author to play a part in a TV play or serial. But next Sunday we can meet Noel Streatfeild, writer of many children's books, in the second instalment of E. Nesbit's *The Treasure Seekers* in BBC Junior TV.

Miss Streatfeild appears as a best-selling novelist travelling in the same train in which Noel Bastable (Richard Williams) is speeding to London in hopes of selling his poems to retrieve the fortunes of the Bastable family. She gives him valuable introductions to publishers

## Bird house to lions' den

### VISITS TO LONDON AND DUBLIN ZOOS

ANN TAYLOR, the attractive 23-year-old hostess of Granada's *Zoo Time*, will be seen among the birds in this Wednesday's edition.

She takes viewers into the new tropical bird house at the London Zoo, where the inmates are free to perch on the heads of visitors. The visitors, of course, can dodge

visiting next week. Dublin Zoo does a roaring trade. Its speciality is lions, and viewers will meet plenty of them, including cubs, next Tuesday when James Fisher is seen taking the *News From The Zoos* team round this celebrated menagerie. Occupying a corner of the beautiful Phoenix Park, it



Ann Taylor feeding an Indian hornbill

this pleasure if they like. Ann has some special favourites among the hornbills.

Viewers will also renew acquaintance with Chi-Chi the giant panda, which recently had its 5th birthday and is still as lively as ever. Also on the *Zoo Time* visiting list are Sam and Sally, two bear cubs which came from Moscow.

From London Zoo to Dublin Zoo, which BBC cameras will be

was founded in 1830 and is the third oldest in Europe, after London and Paris.

The cameras called on the tigers, gibbons, chimpanzees, giraffes, crocodiles, and pythons, as well as an odd little creature called a coypu, which roams wild in East Anglia. In the Children's Zoo the star turn is a baby seal which was found abandoned on the beach.

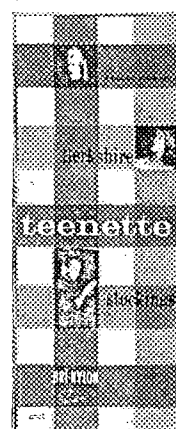


Look - my first pair of **BRI\*NYLON** stockings!  
They're the new Berkshire Teenette.  
Smashing, aren't they? ●



Teenette by Berkshire are specially designed and sized for the younger girl. Hard-wearing, seamfree, 15 denier. At 5/11d. a pair, marvellous value for anyone's money. Mother's for example.

*Look for the Slimfold ▶*



**teenette**

by Berkshire in

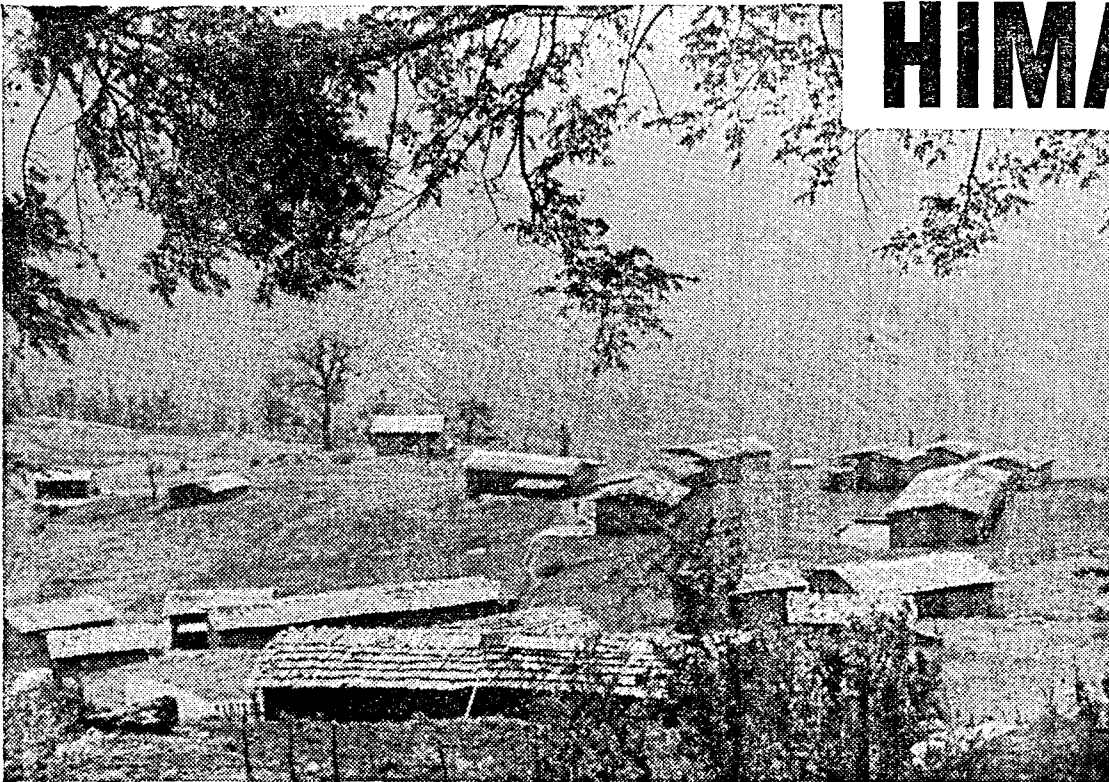
**BRI-NYLON**

*designed for the younger girl*

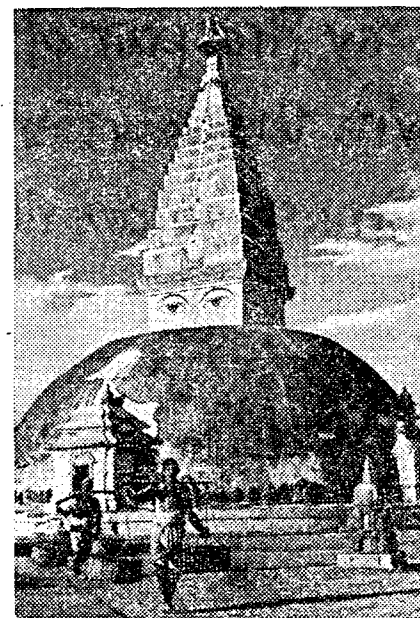
\* Registered Trade Mark of British Nylon Spinners Limited



# HIMALAYAN KINGDOM Nepal



Sherpa village 10,000 feet up in the mountains



A Buddhist temple near Katmandu

ON 27th February the Queen and Prince Philip are to begin a two-day visit to Nepal, the independent Himalayan kingdom between India and Tibet. Nepal has an area of 54,362 square miles (nearly as big as England and Wales), and the population is 8,500,000, mostly of Mongolian and Indian descent. Prominent among them are the Gurkhas, who have won world-wide renown as soldiers. The capital is Katmandu.

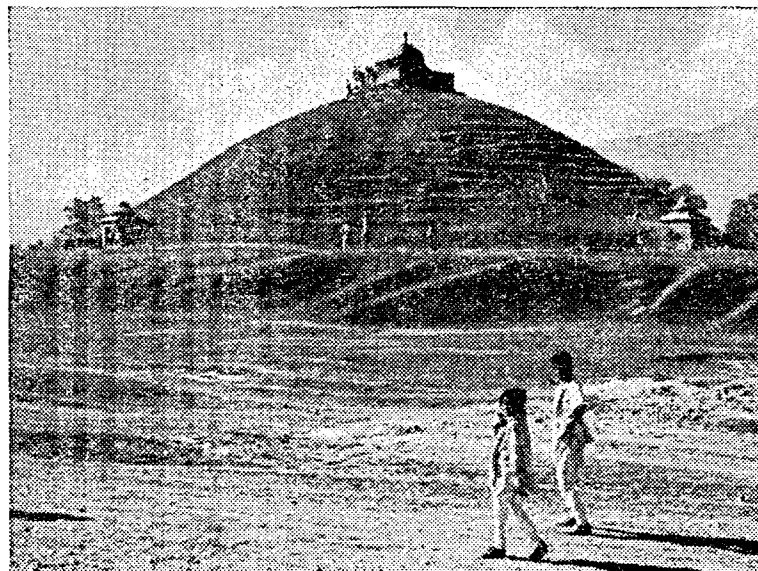
NEPAL'S early history is wrapped in legend, but from the 14th century there are records of its rule under a long succession of Hindu rajahs of different dynasties. The Gurkhas, who came from the Indian State of Rajputana in the 12th century, made themselves masters of the country in 1768, and it was they who in 1792 concluded the first of four treaties of friendship with Britain. But their encroachments on the Indian frontier led to frequent strife with Britain. The two countries have now been firm friends, however, for over a century.

In 1959 Nepal's first general election was held, but the new government was short-lived. Last December King Mahendra took over the administration himself because, he said, "hopes that an elected government would be able to bring about progress and stability have foundered."

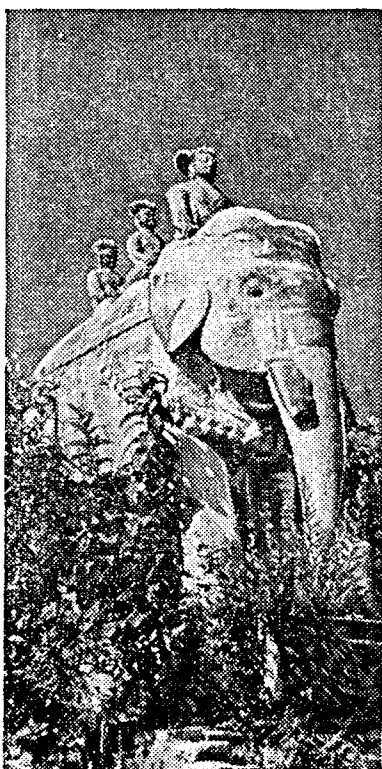
A FEW light industries have been established but agriculture is the chief occupation. The most valuable products are rice and other grains, jute, timber, oilseeds, ghi (clarified butter), potatoes, medicinal herbs, hides and skins.



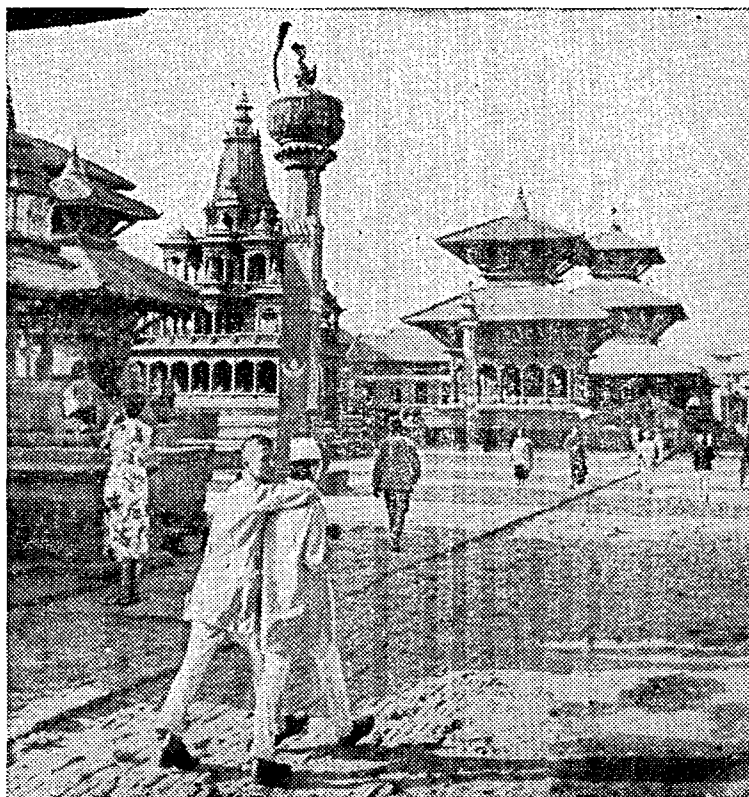
Round the pump in old Patan



One of the mounds at Patan containing relics of Buddha



Memorial to a 17th-century king



In the old capital, Patan, a town of temples



All smiles—a Sherpa girl



Buddha sculptured in stone

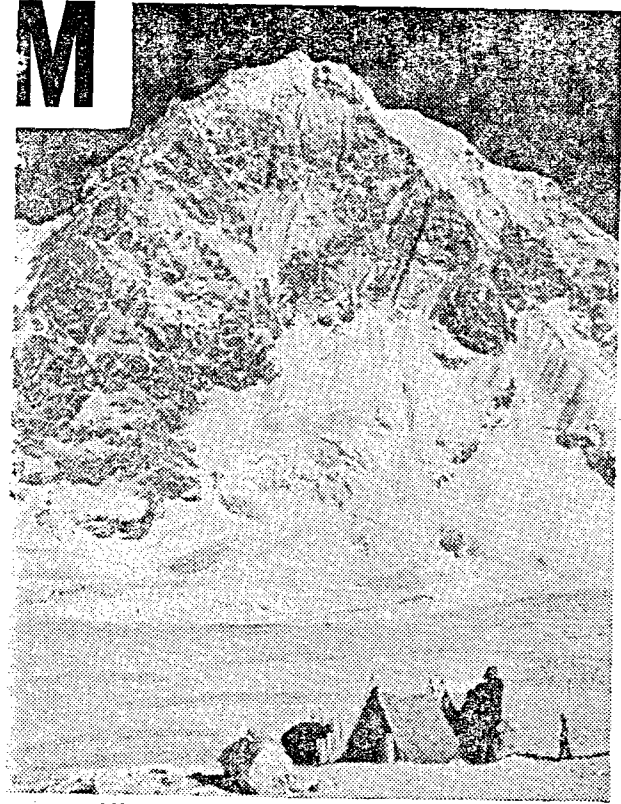


A wayside halt on the railway in southern Nepal

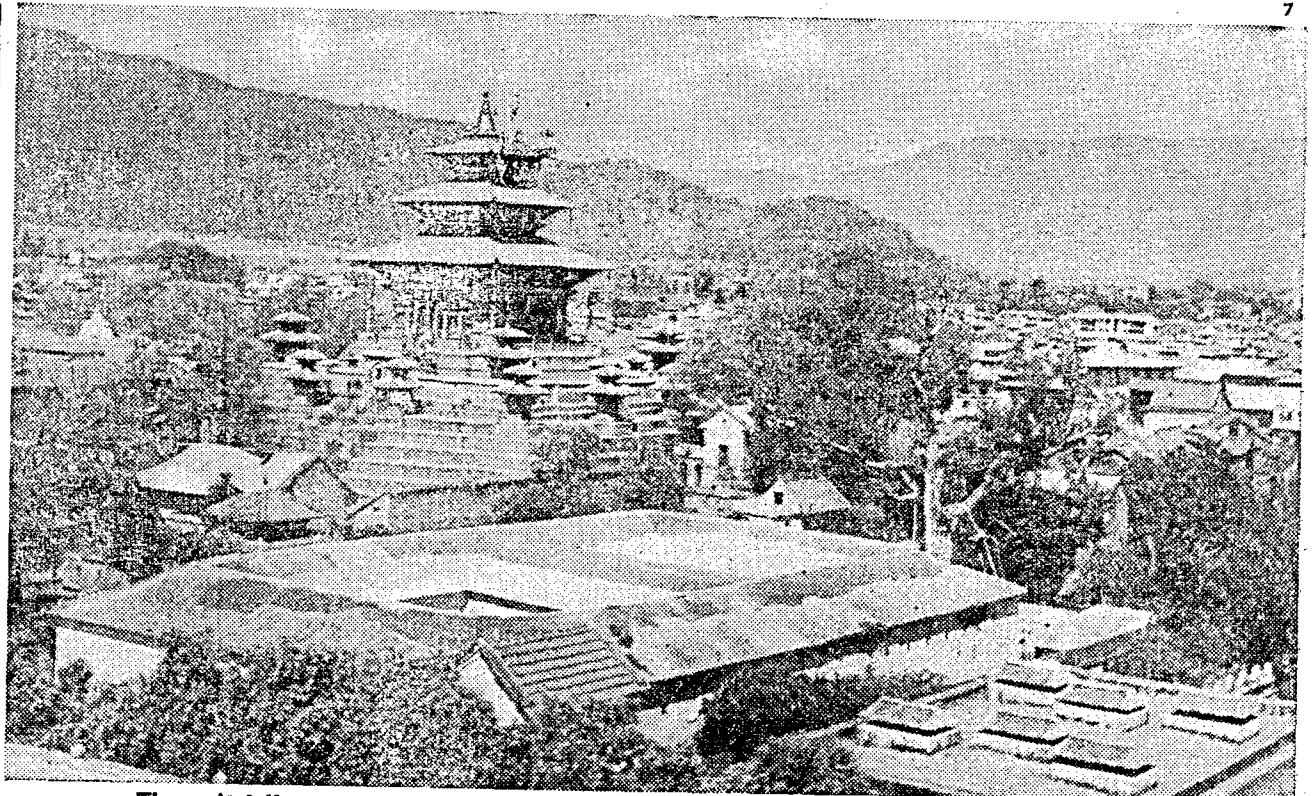


25th February, 1961

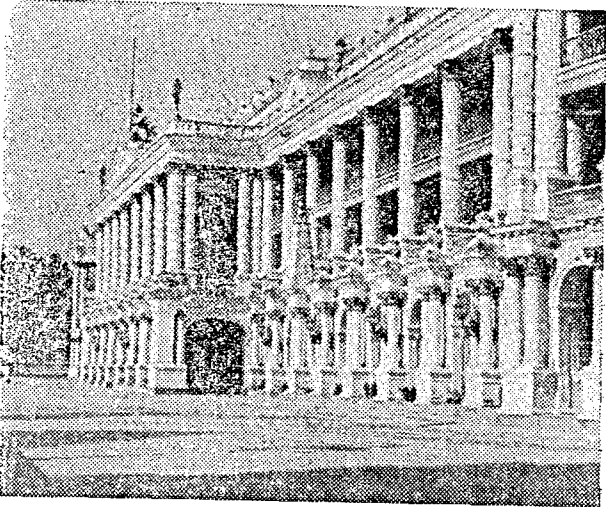
7



Himalayan peak near the Tibet frontier



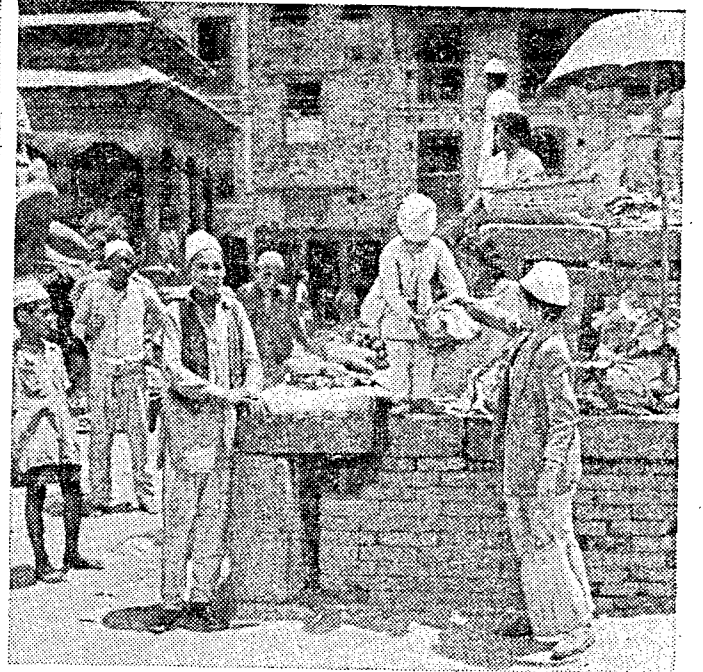
The capital, Katmandu, with the Royal Pagoda in the centre and foothills of the Himalayas beyond



The royal palace in the capital



Carrying pottery to market in Katmandu



Vegetable market on the temple steps



A Gurkha soldier



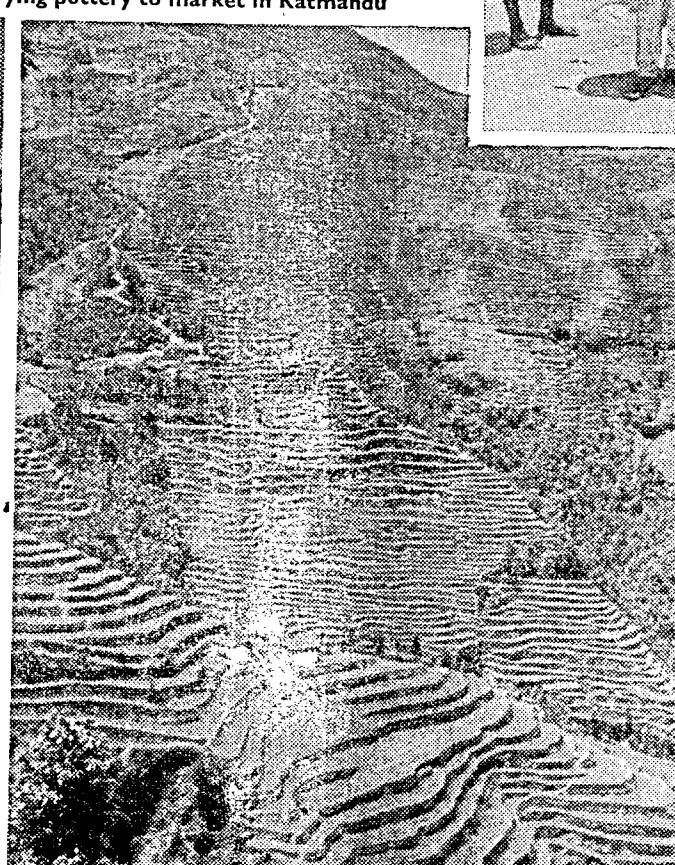
Morning prayers by the sacred River Bagmati



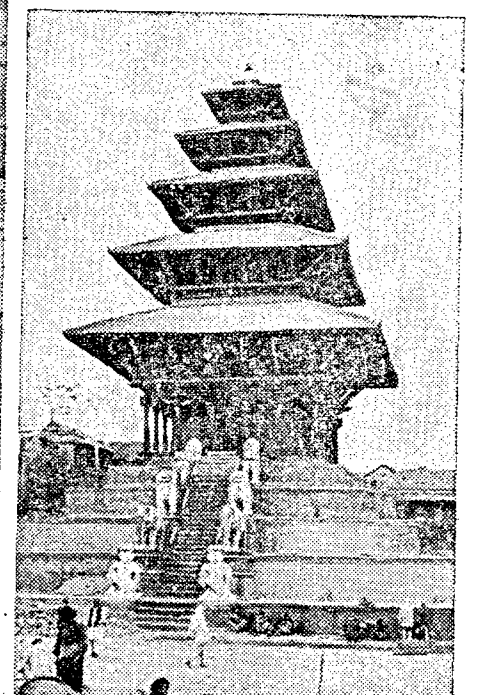
One way of carrying little brother



Beauty adorned



Crops are grown in terraces on the steep slopes



Five-roofed pagoda temple at Katmandu



# TARGET OF A ROCKET

## Venus—Our Nearest Planet

"A fantastic enterprise!" That was how Professor Lovell, director of the Jodrell Bank radio telescope, described the Russian feat of sending a half-ton rocket hurtling through space on a 26-million-mile journey to Venus. Guided by radio, the space ship was launched from a Sputnik 300 miles up in orbit round the Earth. Described as a "flying laboratory,"

ALL through the early part of 1961 the planet Venus has been a conspicuous feature of the evening sky, shining so brightly in the south-west after sunset that it cannot have been overlooked. It reaches its greatest brightness on 5th March, and will remain an evening object until the end of the month. By May it will again be conspicuous, but this time in the eastern sky before dawn.

Venus is about the same size as the Earth; its diameter is 7,700 miles as against the 7,926 of our own world. It is closer to the Sun than we are, and completes one journey in 224½ days—the length of Venus' "year."

If you look at Venus through a telescope, you will see that it does not appear as a circular disc. At present it is shaped like a crescent, as shown in the drawing. In fact, Venus shows a complete cycle of phases similar to those of the Moon.

some ways Venus remains the most puzzling member of the Sun's family of planets.

The reason for this is quite straightforward. Venus is covered by a dense, "cloudy" atmosphere, and our telescopes can show us



The crescent Venus

### Seeing the dark side

When it lies between the Earth and the Sun, its dark side is turned towards us, so that the planet is "new" and cannot be seen; when it is on the far side of the Sun, it presents its illuminated face and is "full," though since it is almost behind the Sun in the sky it cannot then be seen without a telescope.

When at its closest to the Earth, Venus may approach to within 25 million miles, so that it is nearer than any other natural body in the sky apart from the Moon. It might be thought, then, that astronomers could study it in great detail, and find out what it is really like. Nothing could be farther from the truth, and in-

it is expected to reach the region of Venus in the second half of May.

As Patrick Moore explains in this article, little is known about Venus, nearest of the major planets, because it is covered with dense cloud. But the news of the space ship launching indicates that we may be on the threshold of learning some of its secrets.

lion of the Earth), and so must be hotter. Moreover, the carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere acts as a sort of greenhouse, and blankets in the Sun's heat, which presumably raises the temperature still farther. Venus must certainly be uncomfortably warm.

It used to be thought that the surface must be a dust-desert, without a scrap of moisture anywhere. In this case Venus would be lifeless, but the discovery of water-vapour in the atmosphere has led us to change our ideas. It is now believed possible that the surface is mainly covered with water, and this leads us on to some interesting ideas.

Five hundred million years ago, the Earth was in the period known to geologists as the Cambrian. There was no life on the land, but there were primitive life-forms in the oceans. In those far-off days the Earth was warmer than it is now, and there was more carbon dioxide and less free oxygen in the atmosphere, so that conditions were not so very unlike those which we now find on Venus.

### Life on Venus?

Life on Earth began in the seas. Is there, then, any reason why the same sort of thing should not be going on in the seas of Venus? It may be that life has already started there, and in the millions of years to come will develop in much the same way as it has done here.

Of course, this is only guesswork, and may be completely wrong. But bearing in mind Russia's latest staggering achievement, it would seem reasonable to hope that before very long we shall find out.

# ON RECORD

## New discs to note

**BILL MCGUFFIE:** *During One Night* and *Harry's Harmonica* on Philips PB1100. Many McGuffie admirers have been wondering what happened to this popular pianist, and the answer is that he has been very busy composing film music. These two tunes are recent examples of his work, and are played here by his orchestra, with Harry Pitch responsible for the harmonica solos. The orchestra and the music are first-class. (45. 6s. 4d.)

**LAWRENCE WELK ORCHESTRA:** *Melodie D'Amour* and *Calcutta* on London HLD9261. This is one of America's favourite orchestras and Lawrence Welk is almost a legendary figure on television. He is known for his liking for straightforward tunes and no-nonsense rhythms. Each side of this recording is good to hear, with melodies which are familiar even if the names are not immediately recognised. (45. 6s. 4d.)

**TERESA DUFFY:** *Tommy* on Decca 45F 11324. This is Teresa's entry for the Eurovision Song Contest, a charming ballad well suited to her Irish appeal and sweet singing. (45. 6s.)



**SVIATOSLAV RICHTER:** *Liszt Harmonies du Soir* and *Valse Oubliée No. 2* on Philips ABE 10213. Acclaimed by many as the greatest pianist of today, this Russian artist's international reputation has come largely from his recordings, for he has appeared only in Communist countries. But he is due in Britain shortly to give recitals in London, Manchester, and in Scotland. (EP. 14s. 7d.)

**ROBERT SPEAIGHT:** *Poems by Gray and Belloc* on Argo EAF 15.



Gray's *Elegy In A Country Churchyard* and four of Hilaire Belloc's *Sussex Poems* are read with the feeling they deserve by one of our foremost actors. This

is a delight for all who like fine verse. (EP. 12s. 3d.)

**BRYAN JOHNSON:** *Looking High* on Decca DFE6664. With the Eurovision Song Contest in the news once again, Bryan reminds us of his great success last year with *Looking High, High, High*. This virile, marching tune sounds as good as ever, and the three accompanying songs are of equally high standard. (EP 10s. 11½d.)

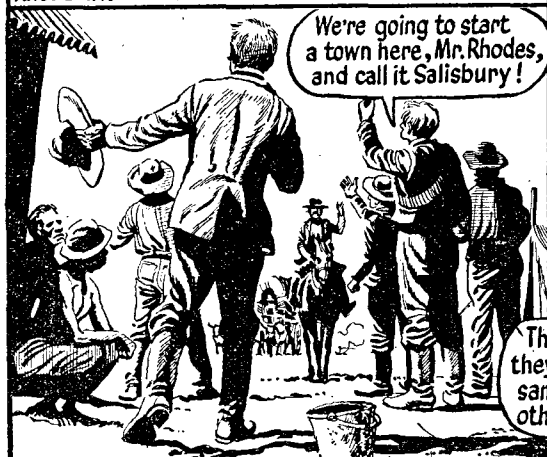
**JEFF ROWENA GROUP:** *Peanut Vendor* on Pye 7N15328. Manchester-born Jeff is a first-class guitarist and takes the solos on this fast-moving version of a popular piece. The Rowena group have become widely known for their BBC *Easy Beat* series (45. 6s. 4d.)

**MARK WYNTER:** *Dream Girl* on Decca 45F 11323. Young Mark is assured of success since his pleasant manner is matched by a melodic voice. Although he has been singing for a very short time, he has all the assurance of a veteran. (45. 6s.)

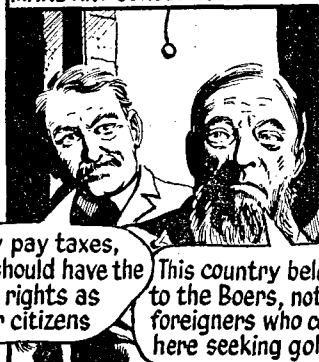
**CHRIS BARBER'S JAZZ BAND:** *Soudan* on Columbia DB4583. This record will be popular with those who enjoy traditional jazz, or indeed with anyone who likes to listen to a happy tune played with plenty of life. (45. 6s.)

## CENTRAL AFRICAN PIONEER—the story of Cecil Rhodes (9)

HIS FRIENDS HAVING MANAGED TO SCARE OFF THE LION, RHODES FOUND NEW TRANSPORT, AND PRESSED ON NORTHWARDS TO TERRITORY WHICH WAS SOON TO BE NAMED RHODESIA. HIS PIONEERS GAVE HIM A GREAT WELCOME



BUT THERE WAS TROUBLE IN THE TRANSVAAL, SOUTH OF RHODESIA, WHERE THE GOLD-MINERS, MOSTLY BRITISH, WERE TREATED AS FOREIGNERS BY THE BOERS. RHODES VISITED KRUGER AT PRETORIA, BUT THE OLD PRESIDENT REFUSED TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS.



THE TRANSVAAL BRITISH PLANNED A RISING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT THERE. RHODES APPROVED THE IDEA, AND SECRETLY SENT THEM ARMS



BEFORE THE RISING COULD BEGIN, RHODES' FRIEND DR. JAMESON MADE AN ILL-ADVISED ARMED RAID ON THE TRANSVAAL FROM BECHUANALAND. HE AND HIS MEN WERE SURROUNDED AND CAPTURED



WILL THE BOERS DISCOVER RHODES' PART IN THE PLOT? SEE NEXT WEEK'S INSTALMENT



# THE CONWAYS TAKE COVER

by Geoffrey Morgan

## 20. The End of the Chase

FOR a moment after the crash neither Jerry nor Jane could be certain what had happened. All they were aware of was part of the tailplane hanging on the square bonnet of the Land Rover as it jolted to a halt. It seemed that Amos had managed to hit the aircraft a glancing blow which had left their own vehicle almost undamaged.

When he started up again and swung round they could see the plane some distance away, well off the runway, and lying upside down near the boundary hedge.

"That puts an end to their trip," Jerry exclaimed.

"So long as it doesn't catch fire . . ." Amos answered, as he let in the clutch and headed towards the plane.

### Back Broken

The aircraft lay with its back broken, its cabin roof twisted, and its windows shattered, but there was no sign of flames. Nevertheless, Amos gave it a wide berth and pulled up at a safe distance.

As they got out and moved towards it a dishevelled figure appeared from the other side of the fuselage. His clothes were torn, his right arm hung limply at his side, but in his left hand he held a gun. It was Dr. Bredon. He moved steadily towards them, a determined, fanatical expression on his face.

"Stay where you are, Skipper!" His voice was calm and controlled as he menaced them with the gun.

"You've lost the gamble, Doctor." Amos remained unruffled as he hesitated, Jerry and Jane beside him. "If you're thinking of running for it I warn you the police will be here before you can get off the island." He nodded towards the aircraft. "And what about your friends?"

"It's every man for himself now," Bredon muttered as he moved towards the Land Rover.

### Fergie attacks

A sudden movement in the hedge caught Jerry's eye, but he remained motionless. The next moment something hurtled through the air and struck Bredon on the back of the head. With a faint groan, he staggered forward and sprawled unconscious on the ground, his gun flying harmlessly from his fingers. As Amos darted forward to get the gun Fergie emerged from the hedge and ran to join them.

"Well aimed, Fergie," congratulated Amos. "You've saved a nasty situation."

"The police are coming. Two cars the other side of the causeway," Fergie whispered.

"Look at this!" Jerry gasped. He was kneeling beside the unconscious man, pointing excitedly to the right hand. "See . . . the index finger—is missing!"

As Fergie and Jane crowded round, Amos picked up a pale, thin object from the grass.

"This looks like it," Amos held up the strange object. "A false finger, and a perfect imitation. Must have come adrift when he fell."

They all stared at the grim object in Amos' hand.

"Captain Boniface lost his index finger," Jerry reminded them. "It was reported in the paper."

Jane looked down at the unconscious man.

"Then—this—Dr. Bredon—is really Captain Boniface!"

"After all you've told me, I've no doubt at all," Amos said calmly, and turned to welcome the police.

There were four constables in each of the two cars who took charge of the round-up of Boniface's gang while Inspector Langton questioned Amos and his companions.

There were six in the plane including the pilot, and five of them had managed to crawl out by the time the police had surrounded it. Thompson had broken a leg and had to be carefully extricated; but all of them were too dazed to offer resistance.

### Filling in the Gaps

They squatted together, guarded by two constables, to await a police van and the ambulance called up from Headquarters by the police radio operator. A search of the aircraft followed and while this was in progress Amos, Fergie, and the Conways retired to the house with the Inspector to give him a detailed account of the events leading up to the present situation.

During this time two flat metal trunks were brought in and opened for their inspection. It was no surprise to the youngsters to find that each was filled with gold bars. By the time the ambulance and police van arrived, the house and the charter ketch off the jetty had been searched and the Inspector had the complete story from his witnesses.

"We shall be needing you again, of course," he said before leaving. "But there's no necessity to come back to Stanbridge now."

"After all this I don't think we're sorry," smiled Amos. "And we've got two dinghies to get back to Potter's Quay."

"I'll come over and see you in the morning, then," the Inspector promised.

Fergie was the first visitor to come aboard *Mirelda* in the morning, followed later by the Inspector.

"I don't suppose you've come to summon us to court yet," smiled Amos.

"No, there's a lot to be done before the trial," Langton agreed. "But since you and your young friends have played such an important part in this extraordinary case, I thought you deserved to hear what little I can add." He paused.

"Boniface and Thompson have made statements admitting their guilt, and each member of the gang has made a detailed confession. These all show that the guesses of your young crew proved correct." And he went on to explain how Captain Boniface had been the prime mover behind the plot.

### Boniface's story

Working for the same shipping company Boniface knew of the gold consignment for Antwerp. He had arranged with an accomplice on the ship to sneak aboard two of the gang from the fishing boat at the port. Two cases were got aboard the *Good Intent* during the night, and she left port.

Then came the finding of the wreckage tossed overboard by the crew and Boniface's subsequent report that the wanted boat had gone down. Meanwhile, she had been sailed into the Weelie River at night and quietly scuttled off Gullmarsh Island.

A month later Boniface had resigned from the company, dropping the hint that he was retiring to Australia. Instead, suitably disguised, he had become Dr. Bredon, the naturalist, and had bought Gullmarsh a little later.

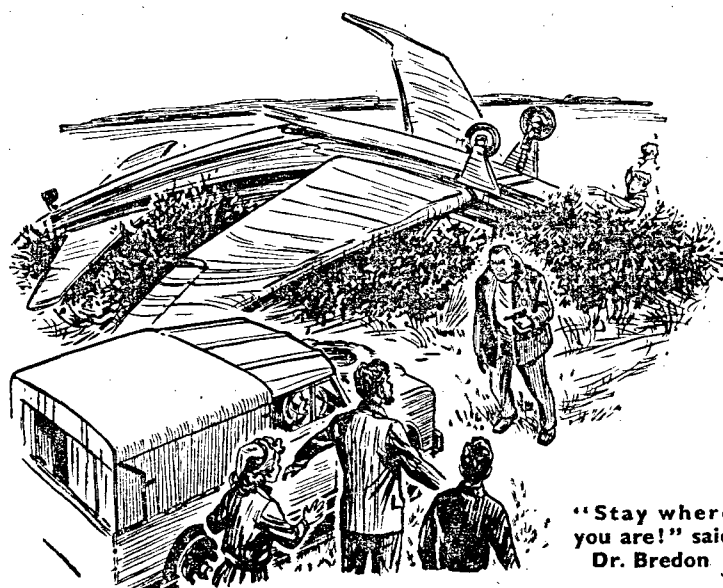
Then he set about salvaging the gold, but the Weelie River was not quite so isolated as he had anticipated. So, taking a pilot into his crooked team, he worked out a plan to crash-land a plane over the wreck to allay suspicion. He planned to stow the gold aboard the yacht he'd chartered and clear out, but when he realised that his plot had been tumbled, he arranged to fly.

### Thompson's pact

"But what we don't know," Jerry pointed out, "is how Thompson got mixed up in it."

"Thompson gambled, and he was up to his neck in debt," Langton explained. "He knew he'd be discharged from the Service and that he couldn't hold out much longer. He suspected Bredon's real identity and challenged him, and Boniface, guessing that Thompson was after money, invited him to join in the plot. As a coastguard he was ideally placed to watch anyone taking an interest in Gullmarsh—as you learned to your cost!"

The Inspector rose, smiling at Fergie and the Conways. "But I



think that the reward that is likely to come from this business will help to compensate you," he added.

When Inspector Langton had left, Jerry turned to his friend with a puzzled frown.

"Fergie," he said, "you did a wonderful job in putting Boniface out for the count yesterday, but what I want to know is how you came to be behind that hedge at just the right moment."

"An accident," Fergie grinned at his three puzzled listeners. "Didn't you notice when I put my bike in the dinghy at Gullmarsh that I had a flat tyre?"

Amos, Jerry, and Jane agreed that they hadn't.

"Well, that was the accident,"

Fergie said blandly. "After I got to the farm and phoned the police I started to bike back to Gullmarsh. I hadn't covered a mile when the tyre let me down, and I had to walk."

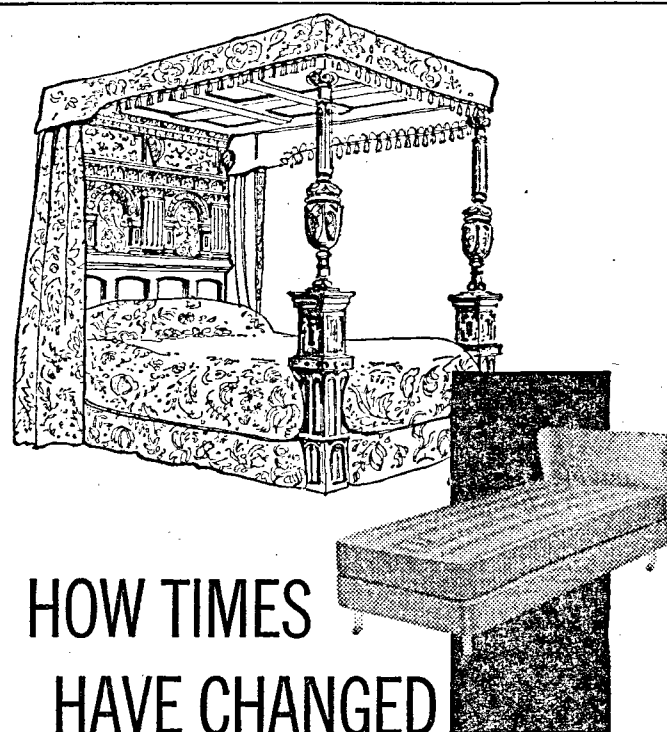
"I saw the plane land, but by the time I'd reached the causeway it was taking off again. I saw you get out of the Land Rover and was about to rush out and join you, when I spotted Bredon—I mean, Boniface—with a gun."

"And if you hadn't been delayed by having to walk you'd have been with us when Boniface held us up?" suggested Jane.

Fergie nodded, grinning.

"It's the first time I've ever been glad of a puncture!" he said.

THE END



## HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED

If you had lived in Tudor England and had slept in a giant "four-poster" bed, you would never have known blissful comfort. Instead you would have tossed and turned on a lumpy straw or horsehair mattress resting on an unsprung wooden frame surrounded with heavy, dust-collecting curtains. To make the bed and turn the mattress was a major operation. Today you can enjoy the supreme comfort of a Dunlopillo mattress. Made from foam rubber, it can never go lumpy or hard and never create fluff or dust. It has also taken all the hard work out of bed-making because Dunlopillo never needs turning or airing.

**DUNLOP**  
 SYMBOL OF PROGRESS



**A-Z 25 DIFFERENT STAMPS FREE!**  
**from 25 countries**  
 ★ One from every letter of the alphabet from Aden to Zanzibar except X.  
 ★ Super offer to new members of the Sterling Stamp Club—(admission free—many advantages). Just send 3d. postage and ask to see a selection of popular Sterling Approvals.  
 (Please tell your parents).  
**STERLING STAMP SERVICE**  
 (Dept. CN 97), Lancing, Sussex.

**FREE BUTTERFLY SET**  
 Once again we have pleasure in offering a superb gift to all genuine Approval applicants. This time we are giving a splendidly engraved set showing wonderful examples of butterflies in full natural colour from the Malagasy Republic. This lovely mint set will enhance any collection and will be sent free to all Approval applicants enclosing 4d. postage. Tell your parents.  
**DEES SERVICES LTD**  
**1 HORSESHOE BEND, PAIGNTON, DEVON**

**100 Different Stamps FREE!**  
 Plus Super Perforation Gauge to all applicants asking to see my famous 1d. upwards Approvals. British Colonial or Foreign. Don't delay, write today enclosing 4d. in stamps for postage. Please tell your parents.  
**C. T. BUSH (CN67),**  
**53 Newlyn Way, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset**

### STAMP PACKETS OF QUALITY

(All Different)		
500 Br. Empire	£1	25 Finland 1/-
100 Gt. Britain		25 Sweden 1/-
(All Obsolete) 8/6		100 Hungary 2/-
50 —do— 2/-		100 China 1/6
10 Iceland 1/6		10 Saudi Arabia 2/-
7 Brunei 1/3		10 Turks & Calcos 3/-
100 Australia 5/-		10 North Borneo 2/6
100 Canada 6/-		10 Caymans 3/-
50 Sth. Africa 3/-		10 Ascension 2/-
50 N. Zealand 3/-		100 World 3/6
10 Danzig 1/6		100 Japan 4/6
10 Slam 1/6		50 Bulgaria 1/6
10 Bahrain 2/6		

Orders under 5/- postage 3d. extra.  
 We despatch per Return. Satisfaction Guaranteed. 8-Page Illustrated List of Sets, Packets, Albums, etc., or Lists of USED G.B., India, Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, or U.S.A. are available Free on request.

**J. A. L. FRANKS, LTD. (C.N.), 140 FETTER LANE, LONDON, E.C.4**

**200 STAMPS PLUS 2 200**  
**FROM RUSSIA**  
**★ FREE! ★**  
 To all who request Discount Approvals. Send 5d. to cover postage. Please tell your parents.  
**BAYONA STAMP CO. (Dept. CN),**  
**HEYSOMS AVENUE, GREENBANK,**  
**NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE.**

**FREE**  
**50 PICTORIAL STAMPS**  
 This packet of stamps is given absolutely FREE to all genuine applicants for my superior Approvals, enclosing 4d. in stamps for postage & parents' permission. Only used British Colonial Approvals. Overseas applications invited.  
**D. L. ARCHER (N)**  
**2 Litchfield Way, Broxbourne, Herts.**

Those in the  
**KNOW KNOW NO**  
 quicker, cheaper, better way to build the stamp collection which is the envy of all their friends than by writing to SELECT STAMP APPROVALS.  
**246 CANLEY ROAD, COVENTRY.**  
 A FREE sample packet of British Commonwealth stamps, AND a packet of hinges, goes to all who write to us. Tell your parents and WRITE NOW.

★ **CAT. VALUE 25/-** ★  
**10 KOREA sent FREE**  
 To all requesting Approvals and sending 3d. postage (U.K. only.) Please tell your parents.  
**DOUGLAS STAMP CO., (Dept. CN.4)**  
**114 WIGMORE ST., LONDON, W.1.**

**1/6 Pkt of LARGE GHANA FREE**



To all sending 3d. Postage (Abroad 1/- extra) and requesting our 'QUALITY' Approvals. Without Approvals price 1/6. Adult collectors catered for. Monthly selections speciality. Particulars sent of "Wright's New Junior Stamp Club"—Admission Free—Fine Gifts. (Postal Sec. Est. 1897.) Please tell your parents.

**WRIGHT'S STAMP SHOP, Canterbury, Ltd. (Dept. 13), Canterbury, Kent.**

**133 DIFFERENT STAMPS FREE!**

Just send us your name and address and you will receive a wonderful packet of 133 different stamps also the famous Old Queen Victoria Stamp of Great Britain. ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE together with a selection of Approvals. Tell your parents you are writing. Please enclose 3d. postage.

**BRIDGNORTH STAMP CO. LTD.**  
 (Dept. A51), BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE.



### BRITISH EMPIRE VICTORY SETS

(All Mint, 2 stamps per Set)		
Antigua 6d.	Gilberts 6d.	
Ascension 8d.	Gold Coast 9d.	
Bahamas 6d.	Grenada 7d.	
British Guiana 6d.	Jamaica 9d.	
Caymans 6d.	Kenya 7d.	
Ceylon 5d.	Leeward Is. 6d.	
Cyprus 7d.	Malta 6d.	
Dominica 6d.	Mauritius 6d.	
Gambia 6d.	Montserrat 7d.	
Gibraltar 5d.	Nigeria 7d.	

The whole 40 stamps, as above, can be supplied at reduced rate of 10/- the lot.

### 3 FIJI STAMPS FREE TO PACKETS

10 diff.	50 diff.	100 diff.
Sudan 1/9	Australia 1/9	Canada 6/-
Zanzibar 2/-	Egypt 2/6	Chile 6/-
Afghanistan 4/-	Peru 3/-	Columbia 8/6
Sau. Arabia 1/9	Ecuador 4/-	Japan 3/6
N. Borneo 2/3	Israel 8/-	Finland 3/6
25 diff.	N. Zealand 3/6	Poland 4/6
Jamaica 2/6	Elre 5/-	Roumania 3/6
Hong Kong 3/9	Iceland 11/-	Russia 5/-
Cyprus 4/6	Malaya 3/6	Mozambique 15/-
200 diff.	500 diff.	Norway 3/6
Belgium 3/9	China 10/-	Bulgaria 3/6
France 5/-	Austria 20/-	Swiss 6/-
Italy 5/-	Hungary 20/-	Liberia 45/-

### BRITISH EMPIRE

100—2/-; 200—4/6; 500—18/-; 1,000—45/-.

Please tell your parents.  
 Postage 3d. EXTRA. C.W.O. List free.

**BATTSTAMPS (3F),**  
**16 Kidderminster Road, Croydon, Surrey**

**TRIANGLE STAMPS FREE!**  
 + PLUS 25 OTHER STAMPS  
 Set of 28 COLOURED BUTTERFLIES  
**FREE! STAMPS FREE!**  
 Send 3d. postage and request Approval selection. (Please tell your parents.)  
**ROSEBERY STAMP SERVICE**  
 (Dept. C1), 37 Rosebery Road, Epsom

# SPEED RECORDS IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

SPEED has always fascinated people, and among naturalists the fascination has taken the form of finding out which is the fastest animal.

According to the researches of Colonel Richard Meinertzhagen, who has spent a lifetime collecting records of animal speeds, the palm must be awarded to the homing pigeon, with a speed of 94 miles an hour. Faster speeds, of well over 100 m.p.h. can be achieved by birds with the wind behind them, but so far no bird has been reliably recorded as flying at over 100 m.p.h. unaided by the wind.

As a domesticated bird specially trained for this sort of thing, the homing pigeon may be considered ineligible for an amateur competition! So it is the runners-up, the golden plover and peregrine falcon at 62 m.p.h. which may claim the first prize for wild birds, followed by the hummingbird and mallard, both 60 m.p.h., and the swift, 57 m.p.h.

Here are the fastest recorded speeds (in m.p.h.) of some of our common British birds:

Rook 45	Wren 18-22
Magpie 23-28	Swallow 44-46
Starling 55	Cuckoo 27
Chaffinch 33	Kestrel 44
House sparrow 35	Mute swan 40
Blackbird 30	Wood-pigeon 51



The speedy Swift

Among mammals, the cheetah, at 44 m.p.h., is usually held to be the fastest. Its great speed has been recognised by the peoples of Asia, who traditionally use tame cheetahs in hunting, to run down their prey. However, a species of antelope was once timed at 60 m.p.h. over a short distance in the Gobi Desert, so perhaps the cheetah's normal prey may claim to be faster than the cheetah.

The fastest racehorses and greyhounds cannot travel much more than 40 m.p.h. The fastest human speed, over 100 yards, scarcely exceeds 22 m.p.h.

Reptiles, not surprisingly, are much slower than mammals. The record at the moment appears to

be held by a snake, a black mamba, which was chased over short grass in Kenya, but could not go faster than 7 m.p.h.

Insects can do a little better than this. Their record is held by an Australian dragonfly, travelling at 55-60 m.p.h., while horse-flies, the detestable biting flies that countrymen call clegs, can go up to 40 m.p.h. (I suppose they have to if they are to catch a racehorse!)

The record for a butterfly is 5-6 m.p.h., and for a flea, jumping sideways, 4.5 m.p.h.!

There are several ways of checking animal speeds, if any reader is inclined to try it. Travelling in either a car or a train you often find birds flying in front of you or beside you. Cars have speedometers, so they make it easy, but on a train you must time the distance between two quarter-mile marks by the trackside, and calculate your speed from that.

Sometimes you can get speeds using a stop-watch, when birds or insects fly from point to point, allowing ten yards or so at each end for accelerating and slowing down. The best method of all is an experiment on a measured base, with somebody using a theodolite at each end. But this, of course, you can only do with tame animals or birds.

RICHARD FITTER

# Stamps from the roof of the world

NEPAL, the remote kingdom in the Himalayas which the Queen and Prince Philip are to visit early next week, has had its own stamps since 1881. Yet until two years ago these stamps could be used only within the boundaries of Nepal.

Any letter sent from Nepal to another country had to be franked with Indian stamps and posted at the Indian Embassy in Katmandu, the Nepalese capital.

The reason for this strange procedure was that not until January 1959 did Nepal become a member of the Universal Postal Union.

This international organisation arranges the transport of mail among all the countries which are members, but it does not allow them to accept mail bearing stamps issued by countries which are not members. Now that Nepal has joined it, the Universal Postal Union includes practically every country in the world and letters bearing Nepalese stamps are freely accepted everywhere.

Recent issues from Nepal reflect other changes in the country's

affairs. In 1959 the first general election was held and the stamp pictured here was issued to celebrate the event. It shows the Nepalese flag planted on a map of Nepal. Another special stamp marked the opening of the first, short-lived Parliament.

The most famous of Nepal's many mountains is Everest, the highest in the world. A stamp



issued last June shows a view of Mount Everest and a portrait of King Mahendra of Nepal.

ANOTHER view of Mount Everest is to be found on two New Zealand charity stamps issued in 1953. They show a young mountaineer gazing at two peaks. One is a New Zealand mountain, Mount Aspiring, and the other, in the clouds, is Everest.

There is no mystery, of course, about a view of Everest appearing on New Zealand stamps. I expect you have remembered that Sir Ed-

mund Hillary is a New Zealander. India also issued two stamps in 1953 to celebrate the conquest of Everest by Hillary and his companion, Sherpa Tenzing.

IN the Karakoram range, an extension of the Himalayas, is the second highest mountain in the world, Mount Godwin-Austen, also known as K.2. It was first climbed in 1954 by an Italian ex-



pedition led by Dr. Dessoir, and Pakistan issued the beautiful stamp pictured here as a tribute to the achievement.

Named after a distinguished geologist, Lt.-Colonel H. H. Godwin-Austen of the Trigonometrical Survey of India, Mount Godwin-Austen is 28,250 feet high. This is more than six times as high as Britain's highest peak, Ben Nevis. Little wonder that the Himalayas are picturesquely called "The Roof of the World."

Among other famous mountains pictured on stamps are New Zealand's highest, Mount Cook, and Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, which appears on issues from Kenya.

C. W. HILL



# PUZZLE PARADE

## FEBRUARY

Field and meadow lean and bare,  
Each furrow dark and dipping down,

Billowed land with seas of seed  
Ranged below its depth of brown.  
Up and under roots are stirring,  
All along the country lane

Ripples of green shoots proclaiming  
Yearning Spring in Winter's frame.

Louie Smith.

## Changed word

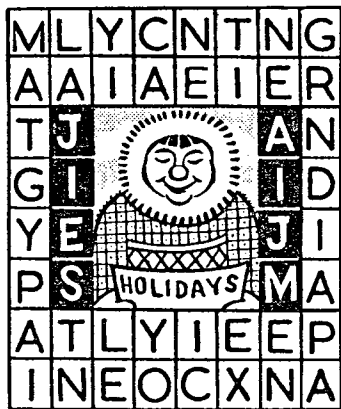
CAN you change the word SAND into ROCK in four stages, altering only one letter at a time?

## LOGICAL

A VERY reflective old shark  
To a dolphin addressed this remark:

"If the catfish can miaow  
(It is said to know how)  
I presume that the dogfish can bark!"

## Holiday hunt



THE Eskimo is looking forward to a holiday in the sun, and has eight places in mind. To find the names of those places start, in turn, with each of the white letters and move from letter to letter until the name is complete. Now see how quickly you can find all eight.

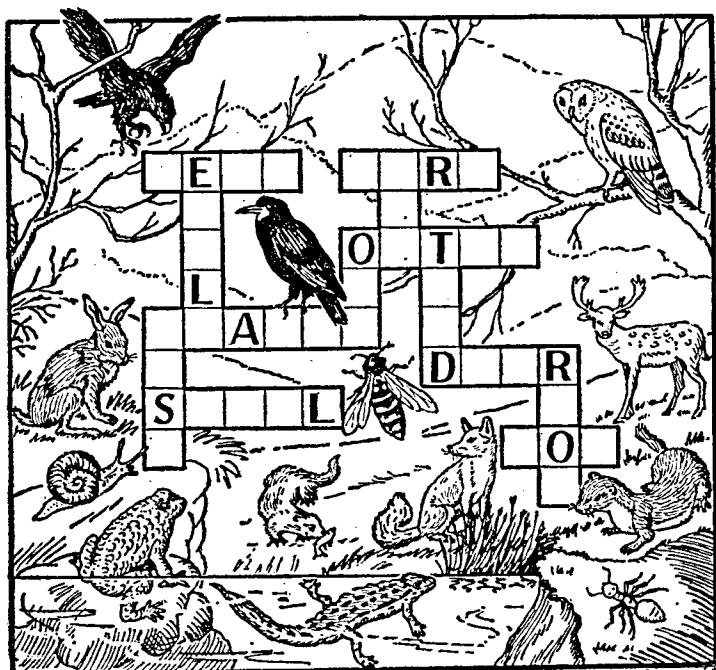
## THREE'S COMPANY

In this word puzzle (a) is a clue to a three-letter word which, with another letter added, gives the answer to (b). A further letter is added to make a five-letter answer to clue (c). Example: fee, feet, fleet.

Answers are given in column 5

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. (a) Equality.<br>(b) Divide.<br>(c) Social gathering. | 4. (a) Not good.<br>(b) Minstrel or poet.<br>(c) Hair on the chin.     |
| 2. (a) Wooden shack.<br>(b) Pursue.<br>(c) Push aside.   | 5. (a) Study carefully.<br>(b) Cereal plants.<br>(c) Fruit of the oak. |
| 3. (a) To be ill.<br>(b) Not to succeed.<br>(c) Fragile. | 6. (a) Groove.<br>(b) Reddish-brown colour.<br>(c) Have faith in.      |

## NAME THE CREATURES



THE names of 13 wild creatures are needed to complete this puzzle. With the help of the illustrations, see how quickly you can do so.

## Billy as an artist

BILLY was feeling miserable. Usually, when he had a cold, he just got a blocked nose and felt a bit tired. But this time he had a severe cold and Mummy had insisted on him staying in bed.

At first it wasn't too bad. He snuggled his feet against the hot water bottle and read a book. But after a while he got tired of reading and decided to paint. He arranged his little jars of paint on the bedside table and got out his brushes. But then he found he had run out of paper.

With a sigh of disgust, he settled down again with his book. And almost immediately he came across the word "mural." The dictionary said it was a wall painting—and that gave Billy an idea.

He hopped out of bed, put on his slippers and dressing-gown—

and set to work painting a picture on the wall.

It was a jolly good picture, even if he said so himself. Then he heard Daddy coming up the stairs, and opened the door. "Look at that, Daddy," he cried. "It's the best picture I've ever painted. It's a mural."

Daddy looked at the painting with horror. His beautiful decorations ruined! Then he looked at Billy's happy face. "Yes, it's fine, son. I'm afraid it can't stay there for long, though. You see, I'm going to decorate this room next week."

"Oh, that's all right," said Billy. "As long as I can show it to Paul and Jean."

Daddy went downstairs again. "We'll have to go and get some wallpaper this afternoon," he said to Mummy. "I've just decided to

decorate Billy's bedroom again." "Is that really necessary?" she asked.

"Absolutely," replied Daddy. "Just you go up and see what a mess Billy has made of it."

## ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

Holiday hunt. Jamaica; Italy; Egypt; Spain; Argentine; India; Japan; Mexico. Name the creatures. Across. Newt; hare; otter; weasel; deer; snail; fox. Down. Eagle; ant; owl; toad; wasp; rook.

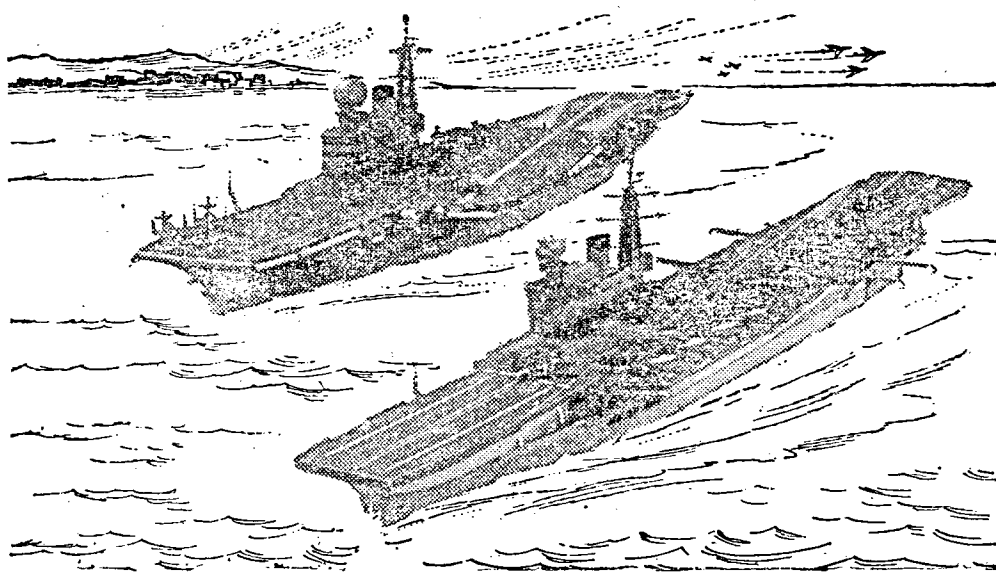
### LAST WEEK'S ANSWER

HELM PLUD  
FWE PLANE  
REGAL TEA  
OR LATH R  
SPANTEL  
GUSED OT  
OAR TENOR  
LISTS ATE  
FLEE APSE

Changed Word. Sand — sank — sack — rack — rock.

## THREE'S COMPANY

1 par, part, party. 2 hut, hunt, shunt. 3 ail, fail, frail. 4 bad, bard, beard. 5 con, corn, acorn. 6 rut, rust, trust.



## Just like the real thing!

Believe it or not, the nearer one is the Airfix model of H.M.S. "Victorious", 1/600 scale (Kit 6/-). Behind it is a picture of the real thing.

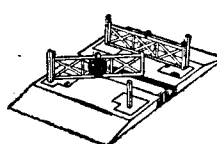
That's how wonderfully realistic Airfix models are. Close attention to every detail gives them their faithful-to-the-original look—makes them true collector's pieces. And every Airfix series is to a constant scale. This means Airfix models look proportionally right, one against another, because they are right! You can't beat Airfix for realism—or value.

# AIRFIX

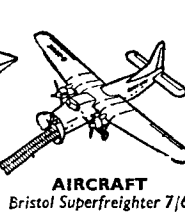
## Constant Scale Construction Kits

From Model & Hobby Shops, Toy Shops, and F. W. Woolworth.

There are over 100 Airfix models from 2/- to 10/6



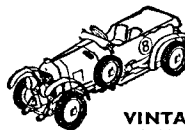
HISTORICAL SHIPS  
H.M.S. Victory 2/-



AIRCRAFT  
Bristol Superfreighter 7/6



MODEL FIGURES  
Lifeguard 2/-



VINTAGE CARS  
1930 Bentley 2/-

## STOP PRESS!

### Latest Airfix Production



### FOKKER F.27 FRIENDSHIP

This 1/72nd scale kit makes up from 72 parts into a beautifully detailed model of the Dutch turbo-prop airliner. Wing span 15½ inches. Full retractable undercarriage, moveable rudder and ailerons, revolving propellers. Kit including Aer Lingus marking transfers—7/6d.

Also new: Assorted 00-scale figures: row 6 sets—Civilians (48 figures), German Infantry (48 figures), British Infantry (48 figures), Guards Band (44 figures), Guards Colour Party, (42 figures), Farm Animals (43 figures). Per set—2/-.



# SPEEDWAY ON ICE

## Skidding round at 80 m.p.h.

WHERE do speedway riders go in the Winter time? In Scandinavia, it seems, they go out to the frozen lakes to carry on with a much more exciting brand of their own dare-devil sport.

It is speedway on ice: twice as fast, twice as dangerous, and ten times more hair-raising than riding on the cinder track.

The Swedes, Norwegians, and Finns have become experts in recent years and have evolved special "ice-bikes" from the popular cinder racing machine. The

The craze started in Sweden soon after the last war when a group of young men decided to race each other over the frozen lakes. As Summer cinder speedway, increased in popularity throughout Europe, it was a natural step to maintain constant practice by adapting the sport to suit Winter conditions. Today there are dozens of ice-speedway circuits in Scandinavia, mostly 500 yards long and banked on the outside by huge mounds of snow



Taking a bend flat out

tyres are of solid rubber and each have anything up to 200 metal spikes which grip the ice and prevent crazy broadsides. Extra long mud-guards shield the riders from these spikes should they lose their balance when skidding round at speeds up to 80 m.p.h.

On their left leg the riders wear long thick pads, for as they hurtle round the bends their machines almost touch the ice and the knee helps the rider to regain his balance.

—for the protection of the crowds.

Former World Speedway Champion Ove Fundin races regularly on ice, but so far has not been able to persuade many British riders to have a go. Who can blame them? It takes years of practice to master the art of controlling a bucking 500 cc. machine over ice.

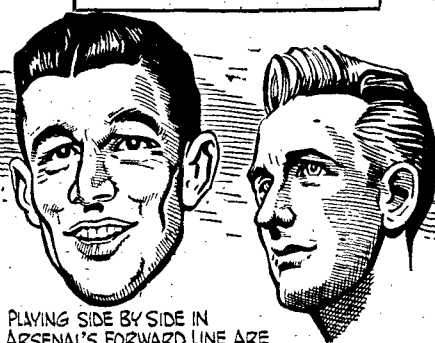
**SCRAPBOOK:**  
Norwich City (The Canaries)

HERE IS THE BADGE WORN ON THE SHIRTS OF A FOOTBALL CLUB WELL KNOWN IN LEAGUE AND F.A. CUP .... CAN YOU IDENTIFY IT ?



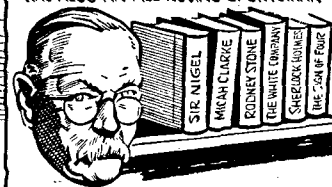
Answer below.

## SCRAPBOOK



PLAYING SIDE BY SIDE IN ARSENAL'S FORWARD LINE ARE **DAVID HERD AND GEORGE EASTHAM** WHO SHARE AN UNUSUAL EXPERIENCE ... AS YOUNG FOOTBALLERS EACH MAN HAD HIS FATHER ALONGSIDE HIM AS A TEAM-MATE — HERD WITH STOCKPORT COUNTY AND EASTHAM WITH ARDS, THE IRISH LEAGUE CLUB.

CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, AUTHOR OF RODNEY STONE, THE WHITE COMPANY, AND OTHER HISTORICAL ROMANCES  
**SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE**  
—1859-1930—  
WAS ALSO AN ALL-ROUND SPORTSMAN



HE PLAYED SOCCER (FULL-BACK) WHILE IN PRACTICE AS A YOUNG DOCTOR AT SOUTHSEA AND HELPED TO FORM THE PORTSMOUTH F.A. HE WAS IN ADDITION, A GOOD CRICKETER, RENOWNED SKI-JUMPER, AND BOXING REFEREE.

## YOUNG SOCCER STARS ON SHOW

ENGLAND and Scotland's soccer stars of tomorrow meet twice during the next few days. The Youth International will be played at Elgin on Saturday, and the Under-23 match at Middlesbrough next Wednesday.

These minor internationals are regarded as testing grounds for the stars of the future.

Among the newcomers to this season's Under-23 England XI, who previously gained Youth honours, are the Byrnes, Johnny, of Crystal Palace, and Gerry, of Liverpool. They are not related.

Johnny Byrne, the first player from the Fourth Division to wear an England shirt, comes from Surrey, and is now a lance-corporal in the R.A.O.C. Gerry Byrne joined the local professional club straight from school.

## France have a poor record at Twickenham

Two rugby international matches are due to be played on Saturday. England meet France at Twickenham, and the Scots and Irish clash at Murrayfield.

Although France have lost only one match during the past two seasons, they have a poor record at Twickenham. In 15 matches there England have won eleven and France two.

Scotland and Ireland have been meeting on the Rugby field since 1877, and on aggregate there has been little between them—36 victories to the Scots and 32 to the Irish. Since the war, however, Ireland have won 12 of the 14 meetings.

## Hard match for the MCC

THE young M.C.C. team now touring in New Zealand have certainly lived up to the promise made by skipper Dennis Silk to play bright and attractive cricket. They have not won all their matches but they have never failed to provide excitement, the batsmen always looking for runs and the bowlers getting through their overs at a brisk rate.

On Friday they face one of the stiffest tasks of their tour when they meet the Governor-General's XI in a three-day match at Auckland.

Lord Cobham, who, as the Hon. C. J. Lyttleton, once captained Worcestershire, has raised a strong team. Among the famous players included in the side are Ray Lindwall, the great Australian fast bowler, and the two New Zealand left-hand batsmen, Martin Donnelly and Bert Sutcliffe.

As the West Indies touring party will have finished their games in Australia, Frank Worrell and Gerry Alexander, captain and vice-captain, will also be playing in the match before starting on their journey home.

## SUNDAY PICTORIAL

# NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF CHILDREN'S ART 1961

Children's pictures and craft work

Entries are invited for the fourteenth annual exhibition to be held in London in September.

All children aged between 5 and 16 may enter. Write now for leaflet to :

NATIONAL EXHIBITION OF CHILDREN'S ART (A),  
Sunday Pictorial,  
Fetter Lane, London, E.C.4.

Closing date for entries :

1st MARCH, 1961

Advisory Committee :

Sir Herbert Read, Mr. Gordon Archibald, Mr. E. M. O'R. Dickey, Mr. Eduardo Paolozzi, Mr. Victor Pasmore, Mr. R. R. Tomlinson, and Mr. Gabriel White.

**½ PRICE OFFER!** SENT FOR 10/-  
The FLIGHT LIEUTENANT  
**Genuine NEW**  
WATERPROOFED  
8oz. DUCK TENT  
SEND 10/-, bal. 15/- in 3 instalments.  
7/1 plus carr.  
Waterproofed 1961. Tents of 8 oz. WHITE duck. Gale-proof. Brand new, surplus to export order. DON'T CONFUSE with Tents made from drab material never meant for tentage. This is real thing, withstands even in our climate. Approx. 7 ft. 6 in. x 6 ft. x 6 ft., 3 ft. walls. Cash £5.19.6, carr. 6/-, complete, ready to erect, incl. carrying container. 'Willesden' Green 42/- extra. Ridge pole 7/6. Flysheet 39/6. Rubberised Groundsheet 19/6. These essentials sent on approval. Refund Guaranteed. TENT LIST FREE.

**LUXURIOUSLY QUILTED 'QUILTERFOAM'**  
**SLEEPING BAGS**  
ONLY 19/11  
FURTHER REDUCED — BRAND NEW  
Slip into it—so soft and comfy—and enjoy restful sleep throughout the night. No blankets, no sheets, it is everything in one including special padding for a beautiful soft mattress effect. As light as a feather it rolls up to a tiny lightweight size. Only 19/11, post, etc., 2/6, even finished in heavy quality strong material—really hardwearing. NOT a blanket with outer but genuinely quilted. Under half price for a limited period only. Refund Guaranteed. LISTS.

**HEADQUARTER & GENERAL SUPPLIES LTD.** (Dept. CN/14), 196-200 Coldharbour Lane, Loughboro' Junc., London, S.E.5. Open Sat.

